

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-3075

House, 7534 Marks Avenue (also known as 7529 Belair Road)

Overlea, Baltimore County

ca. 1905

Private

The single-family dwelling at 7534 Marks Avenue was constructed circa 1905 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20th century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings.

The wood frame dwelling is T-shaped with two porches, a canted bay window, and one-story addition on the facade. The narrow two-and-a-half-story building presents a two bay wide façade on Belair Road with a two-story ell extending southward to Marks Avenue. The construction of one-story addition, or infill of an extant porch, has reduced the façade's prominence, thus none of the elevations read as the primary facade. The structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete that has been parged, and is clad with aluminum siding. Open pedimented gables augment the cross gable roof, which is clad with asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney with a concrete cap is located in the center of the main block. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its porches, elongated window openings, and form.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3075

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 7534 Marks Avenue/7529 Belair Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Real Estate Holding Business, Inc.

street and number 7527 Belair Road

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state MD

zip code 21236-4141

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

tax map and parcel Map 81, Parcel 526

city, town

liber

folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3075

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The dwelling at 7534 Marks Avenue, which uses 7529 Belair Road as the mailing address, in Baltimore County was constructed circa 1905. The wood frame dwelling is T-shaped with two porches, a canted bay window, and one-story addition on the facade. The narrow two-and-a-half-story building presents a two bay wide façade on Belair Road with a two-story ell extending southward to Marks Avenue. The construction of one-story addition, or infill of an extant porch, has reduced the façade's prominence, thus none of the elevations read as the primary facade. The structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete that has been parged, and is clad with aluminum siding. Open pedimented gables augment the cross gable roof, which is clad with asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney with a concrete cap is located in the center of the main block. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its porches, elongated window openings, and form. The building is one of several freestanding single-family dwellings on Belair Road and Marks Avenue, a dead end street in the rural community of Fullerton.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade of the building faces northwest, with a paved drive extending from Belair Road. The rectangular main block is augmented on the first story by a shed roof addition. Set on a parged concrete foundation, this wood frame addition is clad with aluminum siding. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal with a slight overhang on the northwest side. A single entry is located slightly off-center in the addition. A wood frame porch on square posts with a shed roof shelters the entry. The single-leaf entry holds a wood door with lights and panels, and fixed one-light transom. To the north of the entry is a single entry opening with a 1/1 double-hung metal sash window. Over this addition, the main block has two equally spaced window openings, each holding 1/1 double-hung, metal sash. Square-edged casings surround the openings with a metal-clad sill.

The southwest elevation of the building consists of the main block and two story rear ell. From this location, the one-story addition on the façade is visible. A single 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window pierces it. The raised basement of the main block has a two-light fixed window with a wood surround. Symmetrically placed above the basement opening are single window openings. The first story 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window is elongated, while the 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window on the second story is standard sized. The first story of the ell, on the southwest side, is two bays deep. On the first story, the elevation has a small 1/1 double-hung, metal window and an elongated 1/1 double-hung, metal window. The second story has a narrow rectangular opening holding a fixed diamond-paned window with square-edged metal-clad surrounds.

A shed roof porch was constructed on the southwest elevation, leading to the single-leaf entry on the southeast side of the main block. This porch is set on a square wood post with a wooden balustrade and shed roof. There is no access from the ground to this replacement porch. A single 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window is located symmetrically above the entry. This opening is set within an addition, extending slightly from the plane of the main block over the replacement porch.

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Name House, 7534 Marks Avenue, Baltimore
Continuation Sheet

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The two bays of the ell, on the southeast elevation, have 1/1 double-hung, metal windows on the first and second stories. Square-edged metal-clad casings surround these openings. The first story windows are elongated, while those on the second story are standard sized. A single 1/1 double-hung, metal window pierces the gable end. The basement is marked by two two-light fixed windows.

The northeast elevation of the building, similar to the southwest wall, consists of the main block and a two story rear ell. The raised basement of the main block has a two-light fixed window with a wood surround. Symmetrically placed above the basement opening are a canted bay window and single window openings. The first story has a one-story canted bay window holding three elongated 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows. The second story has a 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window, standard in size. The first story of the gable end is sheltered by a shed roof porch, which is enclosed at the northern end. This portion of the porch has a small Queen Anne style fixed window on the northeast side and a single entry on the southeast side. The entry has a paneled door with a one-light fixed transom. The porch is set on square wood posts with a wooden balustrade and shed roof. There is no access from the ground to this replacement porch. The second story of the ell, over the porch, has two 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows. The second story of the main block, facing southeast, has a single 1/1 double-hung, metal window.

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the survey.

A prefabricated metal shed is set to the north of the main block, fronting the driveway. This one-story shed is constructed of vertical metal sheets. It has a shallow front gable roof of metal.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates ca 1905-1950

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates ca 1905

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The single-family dwelling at 7534 Marks Avenue (also known as 7529 Belair Road) was constructed circa 1905 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20th century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings.

History of Fullerton

The history of the property in the early 20th century community of Fullerton dates back to the extension of Belair Road, which was initially laid in a northeasterly direction to the community of Bel Air from the City of Baltimore. As early as 1850, Belair Road was heavily developed and populated in the area immediately surrounding the city. Roughly ten miles away from the city, however, Belair Road was still not heavily populated. This area, where the road traversed White Marsh Run, was dotted by small farms, with only a very few buildings set close to the road. Primarily members of the Fitch and Fowler families inhabited this land in the mid-19th century. As the city of Baltimore expanded beyond its existing limits, this land became one of its primary suburbs.¹

By the third quarter of the 19th century, the Belair Road/White Marsh Run area was still without a name, and the nearest post office was located in the neighboring community of Parkville. Parkville, home to the Lavender Hill Post Office, was situated a short distance to the northwest along the Harford Turnpike. Nonetheless, the area was beginning to develop with oddly shaped lots and irregular street patterns.² The 1877 county map indicates the property destined to become Fullerton was owned and/or occupied by A. Deemer. As indicated by the map, the land had not yet been subdivided into smaller residential lots and was improved with only one residential building that was located at the southeast corner of Belair Road and Fullerton Avenue.

¹ J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.

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Between 1877 and 1915, Deemer's land was platted to include roughly twenty small residential lots. It was at this time that Marks Avenue was outlined to run parallel to Belair Road and then dead-end roughly halfway through the development known as Fullerton. Half of the residential lots created from Deemer's property fronted Belair Road, with the remaining lots on Marks Avenue. Deemer's dwelling at the corner of the property was retained during the subdivision and development of Fullerton. Surrounding neighborhoods that developed during this period include Overton, South Overlea, Overlea Park, and the Addition to Overlea.³

The Fullerton development has changed significantly since its original platting in the early 20th century. Nine of the Fullerton lots facing northwest on Belair Road were improved with residential structures by 1915. However, only one building from this period is extant. Located at 7531 Belair Road, this wood frame dwelling was substantially altered in the mid-20th century by the construction of a commercial storefront. This alteration is indicative of the transition of this part of Belair Road from a residential community to a mixed-use area bisected by a major transportation corridor. The contemporary residential buildings fronting Belair Road have been demolished in order to construct commercial properties and parking lots.

In contrast, the lots fronting Marks Avenue have remained largely residential in character. Between five and ten dwellings on the southeast half of the Fullerton development date to the first quarter of the 20th century. These freestanding dwellings are interspersed by lots that were not developed until the 1940s and 1950s. To the east of Fullerton, across Marks Avenue, the land is sparsely developed with few residential building. It was used primarily for agricultural purposes, and has since been developed as a recreational park for the community.

With the growth of the adjacent community of Overlea to the south, the historic neighborhood of Fullerton has been absorbed and has largely lost its individual context. Overlea has continued to develop residentially and commercially. As the City of Baltimore increased in size through annexation of its suburbs, Overlea's distance from the city diminished. Thus, Overlea is now less than one mile from the city limits. This 20th century development has resulted in a considerable loss of area's late 19th and early 20th century buildings and businesses. Within the last twenty years, the properties just north of those on Marks Avenue were demolished for the construction of a gas station/convenience store at the intersection Belair Road and Henry Avenue. The turn of the 21st century reveals continued development of this Baltimore suburb. A smaller community that has taken the name Fullerton has since developed along Belair Road, to the north of the Baltimore Beltway.

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.
Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.
Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971).
Sidney J. C. *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre
Acreage of historical setting Less than one Acre
Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 7534 Marks Avenue in historic Fullerton (now Overlea) is located on Parcel 527 as denoted on Map 81, Grid 16. The property is bounded by Marks Avenue to the south and Belair Avenue to the north. The dwelling has been associated with this property since its construction circa 1905.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. L. McDonald and L. V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries	date	August 30, 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

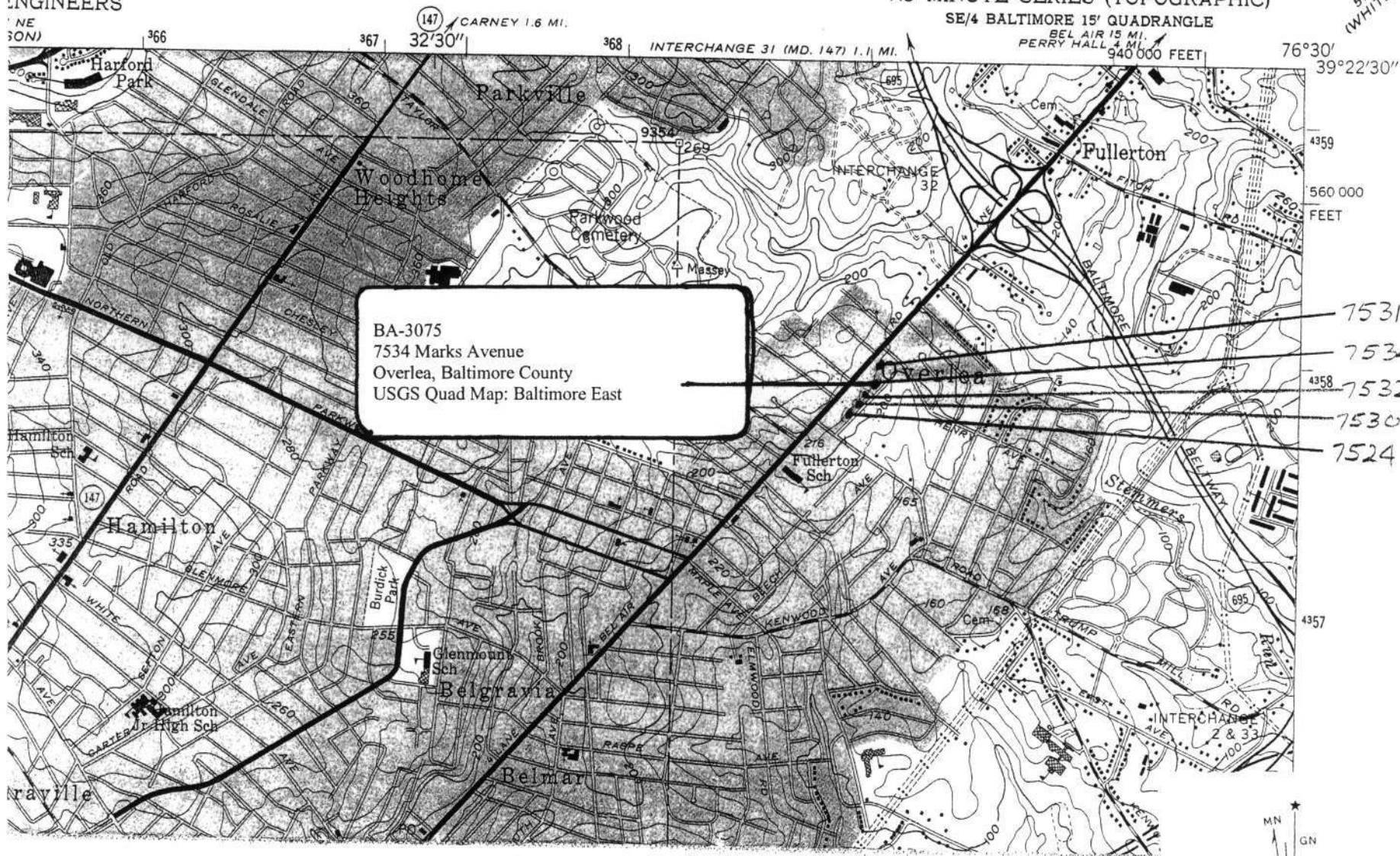
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

SON)

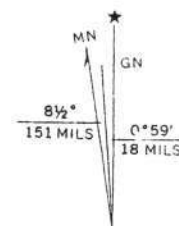
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5762 IV NW
(WHITE MARSH)



- 7531 BELAIR ROAD
- 7534 MARKS ROAD
- 7532 MARKS ROAD
- 7530 MARKS ROAD
7524 MARKS ROAD



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-3075

7534 MARKS AVENUE (7529 BELAIR RD), OVERLEA
BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 4



BA-3075

7534 MARKS
BALTIMORE
TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND
SOUTHEAST

2 OF 4

AVENUE (7529 BELAIR RD), OVERLEA
COUNTY

SHPO

ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST



BA-3075

7534 MARKS AVENUE (7529 BELAIR RD), OVERLEA
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

3 OF 4



BA-3075

7534 MARKS AVENUE (7529 BELAIR RD), OVERLEA
BALTIMORE COUNTY
TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST CORNER, LOOKING WEST

4 OF 4